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The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—"If the financial situation requires it, the Government will be willing to do it."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—"May I know whether the present financial deficit of 60 lakhs under excise revenue alone does not require it?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—"Not at present; if the financial stringency continues, we may have to take to that course."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—"If there is to be a deficit in next year's budget, will the Government be prepared to reduce the cost of administration?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—"In that case we may have to do so."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"May I know whether there is any proposal now before the Government to reduce the salary of all officers drawing a sum of Rs. 1,000 and over by 12½ per cent?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—"The Government are not aware of any such proposal."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—"Whether it is a fact that, during the time of Lord Willingdon, he cut down expenditure on administration by 2 per cent?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—"It may be so, Sir."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—"Will the Government consider seriously the question of retrenchment?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—"I have already answered that question."

Floods

Repairs to tanks damaged by floods in Cheyyar and Wandiwash taluks.

* 249 Q.—Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Public Works Department tanks that have been breached or otherwise affected by the recent rain and cyclone in the Cheyyar and Wandiwash taluks of the North Arcot district;

(b) what steps have been taken by the Public Works Department to ascertain the extent of damage and to repair such damage;

(c) whether it is a fact that while the Revenue Department has already commenced to repair the minor irrigation tanks in its charge, the Public Works Department has not yet moved in the matter;

(d) if the answer to question (c) is in the affirmative, the reasons for such delay; and

(e) whether Government will consider the desirability of instructing the Public Works Department to complete all repairs to affected tanks in time to receive the water-supply at least for the next monsoon?

A.—(a) 115 in Cheyyar and 65 in Wandiwash.

(b) to (e) The local officers have already arranged to put in hand such urgent works as can be taken up with the existing establishment. The Government have also sanctioned a special staff of five supervisors for the repair of flood damages in the district.

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Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know how many breached tanks have been inspected by the Public Works Department authorities and repaired since the last floods ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" Notice."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether adequate financial provision has been made for the repairing of breached tanks ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" Adequate financial provision has been or will be made."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Then, may I take it that the hon. Revenue Member will issue necessary instructions to the Public Works Department authorities that breaches should be closed as early as possible ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" Local officers are already engaged in doing that."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I have an assurance from the hon. the Revenue Member about the speeding up of the work of repairs ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" All the necessary instructions have already been issued."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" Has the executive engineer of the district sent up any definite proposal with regard to the repairing of these tanks ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" In many cases proposals need not come up to Government. I am not aware of any such proposal having b en received."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" Is the hon. Revenue Member aware of the fact that the whole proposal will involve an expenditure of four lakhs, and may I know whether that sum will be given by the Government ? "

The hon Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" Necessary funds have been or will be found subject to the sanction of the Legislative Council."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know whether any orders have been issued with regard to the collection of kist in these flood affected areas in the North Arcot district ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I do not think any special orders have been issued. But, as I remarked yesterday, the Collectors of districts have the power in certain circumstances to postpone kists within the fasli. It is not necessary that this matter should come up to Government."

Forest Panchayats

Grazing grounds for cattle in Bellary taluk.

* 250 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of (1) bulls and cows, (2) buffaloes, (3) sheep and goats according to the latest census figures available in each of the following villages :—Shrotriyam Dasapuram, Bannihatti and Gangalapuram, and